



Stewardship in Action!

A Volunteer Program Newsletter -- Espanola & Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger Districts

Well, it's finally happening!...I'm starting a newsletter for the volunteer program that encompasses the Espanola and Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger Districts. The newsletter will be quarterly (barring any hiccups or month-long stays in the wilderness with trail crews) and it will encompass the upcoming happenings, reflections on volunteer accomplishments, tidbits of information, featured trails or special areas on the two districts, contributions from our readers, fun photos, updates of volunteer importance, and anything else that you suggest we add to the mix. Of course, if you are reading this and would like to help with the development of this newsletter, please call me. My hope is this newsletter will become a team effort fueled by the stories and the know-how of many. In other words, I would be happy to have a volunteer or two who enjoys writing and editing to be part of this newsletter team. Contributions in the form of photos, articles, and other fun information are also welcome.

I hope you enjoy the first *Stewardship in Action!* Newsletter. It's all about a volunteer program that continues to grow by leaps and bounds, and one that I'm proud to be a part of everyday.

Jennifer Sublett, District Volunteer Coordinator -- jasublett@fs.fed.us or 505-753-7331



December 2012 workday on the Dead Dog



Spring is Here!

Dead Dog Trail Workdays...upcoming

April and May will see the continued progress on the Dead Dog Trail construction, which is located west of Santa Fe. Check out these dates and times for your next adventure

Saturday, April 13, from 9 to 2

Friday, April 19, from 9 to 2

****Saturday, April 20, from 9 to 2**

Sunday, May 19, from 9 to 2

The projects on the Dead Dog Trail will include building retaining walls, creating switchbacks, digging new trail tread, and hauling dirt. No experience is necessary. Learn how new trails are built! **Come out and support the Friends of the Santa Fe National Forest on this Earth Day-themed project!

Contact Jennifer Sublett → jasublett@fs.ed.us or 505-753-7331

Tree Planting

Volunteers Needed!

There is still space available for the upcoming tree planting workdays: April 12, 13, & 19.

Our goal is to plant 2,500 trees per workday in the Las Conchas burn area near the Pajarito ski area.

Hard hats and all necessary tools/equipment will be provided.

Contact Jennifer Sublett to reserve your space!

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505-753-7331



October 2012 Workday on the Atalaya Trail

Volunteers will need to wear long pants, long sleeves, above-ankle boots, leather gloves, hard hats, and safety glasses for all workday projects.



National Trails Day Celebration

Saturday, June 1 ~ 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

National Trails Day is an annual event held to celebrate our trails. This year we'll be partnering with *New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors*, *REI*, *Friends of the Santa Fe National Forest*, and *Hyde Memorial State Park*.

We'll meet at a reserved shelter at the State Park, sign-in and divide up into groups for the various projects offered on the Forest and at the State Park.

Lunch will be provided by New Mexico Volunteers for Outdoors, and we will have prize drawings after the projects are completed.

Sign up for the fun event through REI, Inc. at <http://www.rei.com/stores/santa-fe.html> after April 15. You will receive a reminder email prior to the event about what to wear/bring and where to park, especially if we need to provide overflow parking before you arrive at the State Park.

Want more time on the trails?...Check out these additional opportunities:

Volunteer Wilderness Rangers

This program grows in numbers every season. The trails need monitoring and clearing, including front country and back country. Plus, if you've ever encountered a ranger on the trail, you may have asked them for information and they were able to provide it right there on the spot! Wouldn't it be great if you could give back a few times a week or month? Training will be provided in May; space is limited.

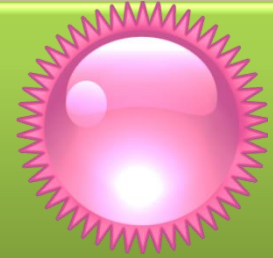
Adopt-a-Trail Program

Trails need constant upkeep and monitoring. Trail adoption is a great way to get involved on your own time. Training will be provided. Please check out the adopt-a-trail maps on the Santa Fe National Forest's volunteering webpage.

Your link to volunteering:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/santafe/workingtogether/volunteering>

Summer Volunteer Opportunities



There are plenty of opportunities to get involved this summer on important wilderness projects. Namely, the District Volunteer Program will be sponsoring two (yes, two!) volunteer vacations this summer. If you've never participated on a volunteer vacation, this is your chance!

Through partnership with **New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors** and **Wilderness Volunteers**, we'll be clearing and improving trails throughout the wilderness. Both trips are backpacking and require the volunteer to be in good shape for backpacking and working on trails.

Pack support will be provided to carry tools and group kitchen/food by Back Country Horseman. Each vacation provides a day of rest in the middle of the trip—well-deserved, I might add.

Volunteer Vacations

New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors—June 22-30

The project will be located on the Skyline Trail west of Santiago Lake in the Pecos Wilderness. Come for half the trip or the entire duration. Check out nmvfo.org and click on 'Calendar' for more information.

Wilderness Volunteers—July 14-20

This project will include working on the trail that leads to Lake Katherine from the Puerto Nambe meadow in the Pecos Wilderness. Check out the Wilderness Volunteers website at wildernessvolunteers.org. Click on 'Projects' for more information.



Tired yet happy Volunteer Vacationers last summer on the Valdez Trail in the Pecos Wilderness.

Friends of the Santa Fe National Forest

The Friends group will be hosting an **Earth Day event on Saturday, April 20, on the Dead Dog Trail in the Caja del Rio**. For more information on this upcoming workday, please contact Jennifer Sublett: jasublett@fs.fed.us or 505-753-7331.

Safety Tip: If you become disoriented or lost while outdoors, the first thing to do is **S.T.O.P.** Rather than become more lost, give yourself a moment to:

Stop: Take a break in one location while you...**Think:** "How long have I been wandering without knowing where I am?" "Did I miss a turn or junction on the trail?" and then...**Observe:** Do you hear cars along a road, sounds coming from a nearby camp, flowing water, smell food cooking; or see any reference points like power lines? **Plan:** Decide whether you are able to identify what direction you need to go or stay in your current location to wait for assistance and perhaps plan to spend the night.

Continuing to wander around will only cause more fatigue and confusion for you and those looking for you.



Did you know?...wearing the color blue (especially dark blue) will attract more mosquitoes. Be sure to wear light colors like white and beige when spending time where the mosquitoes congregate...but just in case, make sure your friends are wearing blue to be extra confident the mosquitoes will stay far away from you! ☺



Spring

NATURE'S CORNER



What is Phenology? Answer: *The study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate, plant, and animal life.* For example: When do the flowers typically bloom in the spring? When can we expect to see Sandhill Cranes migrate through New Mexico? Check out this article related to [phenology and climate change](#).